

# **G L O S S A R Y**

## GLOSSARY

**8100 Projects** - range betterment projects funded by monies returned to the BLM based on a specific portion of the grazing fees.

**Activity Plan** - a site specific plan which precedes actual development or implementation. It is the most detailed level of BLM planning.

**Actual Use** - the location, number, and kind of livestock that graze on an allotment or portion of an allotment, and how the livestock graze on it.

**Allotment Grazing Right Owner** - (A Coalition of Counties definition) - owner of the preference on BLM lands.

**Allotment** - an area of land designated and managed for grazing of livestock.

**Aquifer** - a water-bearing bed or zone below the earth surface that is capable of producing water as from a well.

**Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)** - an area within the public lands where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, scientific, wildlife or scenic values.

**Animal Unit Month (AUM)** - the amount of forage needed to sustain one cow, five sheep or five goats for a month.

**Basal Cover** - a measurement of the amount of area plant species encompass on the ground. Basal cover is usually measured as the percentage of ground cover of plants, by species, in relationship to other forms of ground cover such as litter, bare ground, and rocks.

**Best Management Practice (BMP)** - a practice or combination of practices that are determined after problem assessment and examination of alternatives to be the most effective and practicable (technologically, economically, and institutionally) means of preventing or reducing the amount of pollution from nonpoint sources to a level compatible with predetermined goals.

**Biological Assessment** - a document prepared, usually in conjunction with an Environmental Impact Statement, that analyzes the specific impacts of a project and alternatives to any species listed as endangered or threatened, or proposed to be listed as such, under the Endangered Species Act, that may occur in the proposal area or be affected by the proposal. The Biological Assessment (BA) is a requirement of the Section 7 (Section 7(a)2 of the Endangered Species Act) Consultation between a Federal Agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). FWS uses the information in a BA to render an opinion as to whether the proposed project will jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species. FWS may suggest or require adjustments to the action to avoid adverse impacts or jeopardizing the existence of a species.

**Biotic** - refers to living components of an ecosystem, e.g., plants and animals.

**Browse** - (noun) the tender shoots, twigs, and leaves or trees and shrubs often used as food by cattle, deer, elk, and other grazing animals. (Verb) to consume, or feed on.

**Capability** - the capacity for an indicated use or development.

**Climax Vegetation** - the final vegetation community and highest ecological development of a plant community that emerges after a series of successive vegetational stages. The climax community perpetuates itself indefinitely unless disturbed by outside forces. Climax is synonymous with Potential Natural Community in BLM vegetation condition descriptions.

**Conservation Recommendations (CR)** - discretionary actions suggested by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to minimize or avoid the adverse effects of an action. Such actions are not required, but are highly recommended.

**Culture** - customary beliefs, social norms and marital traits of a group...of racial, religious or social group integrated pattern of human behavior passed to succeeding generations and that complex whole that includes knowledge, belief, morals, law, customs, opinions, religion, superstition and art.

**Custom** - a usage or practice of the people, which, by common adoption and acquiescence, and by long and unvarying habit, has become compulsory and has acquired the force of law with respect to the place or subject-matter to which it relates...An habitual or customary practice, more or less widespread, which prevails within a geographic or sociological area.

**Desired Plant Community (DPC)** - (A Coalition of Counties definition) - the designed vegetative mosaic to meet RMP goals as developed through a statutory process that balances resource conservation with individual, social cultural/historic economic opportunities to promote, sustain and enhance local communities.

**Desired Plant Community (DPC)** - the plant community which provides the vegetation attributes required for meeting or exceeding RMP vegetation objectives. The DPC must be within an ecological site's capability to produce these attributes through natural succession, management action, or both. A specific description of the vegetation needed to meet the vegetation objectives of a detailed activity plan or implementing action can be described as a desired plant community.

**Desired Resource Condition** - the condition of the soil and vegetation resource that management actions are focused upon achieving.

**Direct Economic Impacts** - the sum of economic impacts to an individual sector which is directly impacted.

**Diverse** - a variety of different species (plant or animal).

**Ecological Site** - (A Coalition of Counties definition) - classification of an area that would be expected to produce a characteristic potential biotic community that has a predictable plant composition and animal production.

**Ecological Site** - a distinctive kind of land that differs from other kinds of land in its ability to produce kinds and amounts of vegetation in response to management.

**Economic Activity** - the dollar flows with an economy.

**Economic Impacts** - change in dollar flows (economic activity), personal income, and jobs, (FTEs) associated with an external change to the economy.

**Ecosystem** - a complex self-sustaining natural system which includes living and nonliving components of the environment and the circulation of matter and energy between organisms and their environment.

**Endemism** - describes the distribution of a species where it is limited to very small or unique areas or habitats.

**Environmental Assessment (EA)** - a concise public document prepared to provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact. It includes a brief discussion of the need for the proposal, alternatives considered, environmental impact of the proposed action and alternatives, and a list of agencies and individuals consulted.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** - a formal public document prepared to analyze the potential impacts (both beneficial and adverse) on the environment of a proposed project or action and release for comment and review. An EIS must meet the requirements of NEPA, CEQ guidelines, and directives of the agency responsible for the proposed project or action.

**Evapotranspiration** - that part of precipitation returned to the air through direct evaporation or by transpiration of vegetation.

**Field Office** - the smallest administrative subdivision of the BLM, (formerly called Resource Areas RAs).

**Field Office Manager** - the individual in charge of the field office having full responsibility for public land resource management and delivery of BLM products, services and customer services to land users and the public for a designated portion of the geographical area under the jurisdiction of the BLM State Office.

**Folial Cover** - the percentage of ground covered by a downward vertical projection of the aerial portion of plant foliage, excluding small openings in the canopy.

**Full Time Equivalents (FTE)** - equal to one full time job.

**Functioning At Risk** - uplands or riparian-wetland areas that are properly functioning, but soil, water, or vegetation attributes makes them susceptible to degradation and lessens their ability to sustain natural biotic communities. Uplands are particularly at risk if their soils are susceptible to degradation. Human activities, past or present, may increase the risk.

**Guidelines** - (A Coalition of Counties definition) - guidelines for grazing management are methods and practices to ensure that standards can be met or that progress can be made toward meeting that end.

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**Hydromodification** - any man-made alteration of the hydrologic function of the stream channel, including streambank destabilization and reduction of riparian vegetation.

**Ice Cream Species** - an exceptionally palatable species sought and grazed first by livestock and game animals. Such species are usually overutilized under proper grazing.

**Incidental Take** - an official permitting of taking (defined as harassing, harming, pursuing, hunting, shooting, wounding, killing, trapping, capturing, or collecting a listed species). An incidental take statement also includes specific terms and conditions to implementation of the action.

**Interested Public** - an individual, group or organization that has submitted a written request to the authorized officer to be provided an opportunity to be involved in the decisionmaking process for the management of livestock grazing on specific grazing allotments or has submitted written comments to the authorized officer regarding the management of livestock on a specific allotment.

**Lentic** - standing water riparian habitats, such as lakes, ponds, or playas.

**Livestock Grazing Plan** - an activity plan developed consistent with the definition of 43 USC 1702(k), that focuses on and contains the necessary instructions for management of livestock grazing on specific public lands to meet resource condition, sustained yield, multiple use, economic, and other objectives.

**Lotic** - moving water riparian habitats such as rivers, creeks, or springs.

**Mitigation** - action taken to alleviate or lessen the adverse effects of a management practice.

**Monitoring** - the orderly process of collection, analysis, and interpretation of resource data to evaluate progress toward meeting management objectives.

**Multiple Use** - a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that considers long-term needs or renewable and nonrenewable resources, including recreation, rangeland, timber, minerals, watershed, and wildlife, along with scenic, scientific, and cultural values.

**National Scenic Trail** - a trail designated under The National Trail System Act. It must be an extensive trail, located for its outdoor recreation potential, and for the conservation and enjoyment of nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, or cultural qualities in its vicinity.

**Nonfunctioning Condition** - riparian-wetland areas are considered to be in nonfunctioning condition when they do not provide adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody debris to dissipate stream energy associated with high flows thus are not reducing erosion, improving water quality, or other normal characteristics of riparian areas. The absence of certain physical attributes such as flood plain where one should be are indicators of nonfunctioning condition. Uplands are considered to be in nonfunctioning condition when existing vegetation and ground cover do not maintain soils capable of sustaining natural biotic communities. See Properly Functioning Condition and Functioning At Risk.

**Nonpoint Sources** - the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in Federal Register 41 (119), Friday, June 18, 1976, gave three general criteria for nonpoint sources. They are: 1. The pollutants discharged are induced by natural processes, including precipitation, seepage, percolation, and runoff; 2. The pollutants

discharged are not traceable to any discrete of identifiable facility; and 3. The pollutants discharged are better controlled through the application of best management practices, including process and planning techniques.

**Notice of Intent (NOI)** - a notice published in the Federal Register to announce the beginning of the planning/NEPA process and to seek public involvement.

**Notice of Availability (NOA)** - a notice in the Federal Register to announce the availability of a document for public review.

**Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV)** - any motorized vehicle capable of or designed for travel on or immediately over natural terrain. OHV use includes driving off a designated road for purposes including, but not limited to recreation, ranching, mineral operations, hunting, fuelwood gathering, etc.

**Opinion** - refers to the opinion of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in judging whether the action analyzed will jeopardize the continued existence of a species.

**Optimum Infiltration** - (A Coalition of Counties definition) - the capture of precipitation based on soil type and geologic conditions measured by the delivery of water to ground and surface sources.

**Personal Income** - includes wages, salaries, and proprietary income.

**Plan Amendment** - a document that changes a part of the existing plan or adds to it, allows new proposals to be considered and incorporated, if warranted, into the plan. It helps to keep the plan useful and extends its life. Formal notice and public involvement is required.

**Plan Maintenance** - keeping the data base and planning current, it makes no changes in planning decisions, however there is opportunity to refine decisions. There is no formal notice or public involvement required.

**Potential** - existing in possibility, capable of development into actuality.

**Production Goals** - (A Coalition of Counties definition) - the level of goods and services, both commodity and non-commodity, expected to be achieved from the

management of a given area of land. These are designed to meet statutory requirements and public values as developed at the local level.

**Productive** - having the quality or power of producing.

**Proper Functioning Condition** - riparian-wetland areas are functioning properly when adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody debris is present to dissipate stream energy associated with high waterflows, thereby reducing erosion and improving water quality; filter sediment, capture bedload, and aid floodplain development; improve floodwater retention and groundwater recharge; develop root masses that stabilize streambanks against cutting action; develop diverse ponding and channel characteristics to provide the habitat and water depth, duration and temperature necessary for fish production, waterfowl breeding, and other uses; and support greater biodiversity. The functioning condition of riparian-wetland areas is influenced by geomorphic features, soil, water and vegetation.

**Public Land Health** - the degree to which the integrity of the soil and the ecological processes of public lands ecosystems are sustained. Public land health exists when ecological processes are functioning properly to maintain the structure, organization and activity of the system over time.

**Public Lands** - any land or interest in land (outside of Alaska) owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management.

**Rangelands** - land on which the native vegetation (climax or natural potential) is predominantly grasses, grass-like plants, forbs or shrubs suitable for grazing or browse use. Includes lands revegetated naturally or artificially to provide a forage cover that is managed like native vegetation. Rangelands may consist of natural grassland, savannas, shrublands, moist deserts, alpine communities, coastal marshes and wet meadows.

**Range Site** - a distinctive site capable of supporting a native plant community typified by an association of species that differs from that of other range sites in the kind or proportion of species or in total production.

**Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives** - are non-discretionary companions to a jeopardy determination issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Reasonable and Prudent Measures (RPM)** - are non-discretionary (required implementation) measures attached to an Incidental Take statement to guide and minimize Incidental Take. RPMs are binding on all permits and permittees engaging in activities covered by Incidental Take. RPMs may also be applied without an Incidental Take statement.

**Resilient** - capable of withstanding shock without permanent deformation or damage and return freely to its previous position, shape, or condition.

**Resource Management Plan (RMP)** - a written land use plan that outlines BLM's decisions and strategies for management of the resources in a particular area (usually a resource area). The RMP has been used by the BLM since 1980.

**Resource Advisory Council (RAC)** - a group of citizens representing a diversity of interests concerned with management of public lands. In New Mexico, a statewide body with members advising the BLM State Director about public land issues and solutions.

**Riparian** - an area of land directly influenced by permanent water. It has visible vegetation of physical characteristics reliant upon continuous presence of water. Lakeshores and streambanks are typical riparian areas. Sites such as ephemeral streams or washes that exhibit the presence of vegetation which is dependent upon free water in the soil would be considered riparian areas.

**Scoping** - As defined in the CEQ Regulations (40CFR 1500-1508), an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. Scoping may involve public meetings, field interviews with representatives of agencies and interest groups, discussions with resource specialist and managers, written comments in response to new releases, direct mailings and articles about the proposed action, and scoping meetings.

**Section 3** - a permit authorizing grazing use on public lands inside a grazing district boundary. It is a

reference to that section of the Taylor Grazing Act pertaining to lands within the district boundary.

**Section 15** - a lease authorizing grazing use on public lands outside the grazing district boundary. It is a reference to that section of the Taylor Grazing Act pertaining to lands outside the district boundary.

**Seral** - Refers to the ecological stage of a plant community with respect to ecological succession. Seral stages used by BLM in describing ecological succession are: early seral, mid-seral, late seral, and climax or potential natural community.

**Silviculture** - the portion of forest management related to establishment, development, reproduction and care of trees.

**Site Potential** - (A Coalition of Counties definition) - the ability of a particular site to produce various vegetation compositions and production levels as limited by edaphic, climatic, geologic, genetic and topographic factors.

**Soil Taxonomy** - a soil classification system based on observable or measurable properties primarily those which can be observed or measured in the field.

**Standard** - (A Coalition of Counties definition) an acknowledged measure of comparison regarding a resource upon which a judgement is based. Measurements include adequate and reproductive sampling methods, sampling size and sampling frequency and duration to obtain discrete values for each ecological site within a management area.

**Standard** - an acknowledged measurement of comparison of public land and its resources upon which a decision is based.

**Sustainable** - (A Coalition of Counties definition) - capable of maintaining RMP goals in perpetuity. Sustainable can be equated with proper ecological functioning.

**Sustainable** - capable of being maintained in perpetuity, such that the portion of the renewable resource (vegetation or animals) removed from the public lands by one harvest is replaced by growth or reproduction before another harvest occurs.

**Sustained Yield** - the continuation of a healthy desired plant community.

**Taxonomic** - refers to the system of classification used to establish the scientific names of organisms, or names of soils.

**Threshold** - a point, below which there is no apparent or measurable adverse effects.

**Trend** - the direction of change over time, either toward or away from desired management objectives.

**Upland** - the portion of a watershed which provides drainage to channels and streams, and which is normally dry on the surface.

**Watershed** - the total area above a given point on a waterway that contributes runoff water to the streamflow at that point.

**Wetland** - areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support and which, under normal circumstances, do support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

**Wilderness Study Area (WSA)** - a roadless area or island that has been inventoried and found to have characteristics described in Sections 603 of FLPMA and Section 2(c) of The Wilderness Act of 1964. These lands are currently managed under the "Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review".

**Wilderness Area** - an area formally designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

**Value of Production (VOP)** - the total amount of output produced by an individual sector.

# **R E F E R E N C E S**



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